In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 1 with the following:

As the sheath 26 is circular and circumscribes the square lens element 23, each face forms a chord that, with the sheath [[25 ]] 26 defines an axially extending working channel with a cross section in the form of a segment. Such working channels are called "segmental working channels" in the following description. In FIGS. 1 through 3 segmental working channel faces 30 through 33 define one boundary of each of segmental working channels 34, 35, 36 and 37, respectively. At least one of these segmental working channels, such as the segmental working channel 36, could be used to contain optical fibers [[30 ]] 38 for transferring light from the proximal end of the optical device beyond the distal end to illuminate a field of view. The other segmental working channels could accommodate instruments or therapeutic or diagnostic material or both or other agents such as water and saline solution.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning at page 15, line 23 through page 16, line 21 with the following:

This invention has been described in terms of one specific embodiment in which each of the lens elements selected for the lens assemblies are characterized by centered, rotational

symmetry about coincident optical and geometric axes and in which the final lens system exhibits point symmetry about coincident geometric and optical axes. FIG. 7A schematically depicts such a configuration in which optical axis 67 is coincident with the geometric axis of the initial lens assembly 66 and the final lens assembly 22. FIG. 7B depicts a variation in which the optical and geometric axis 67 of the lens assembly 66 are parallel but spaced. Processing according to FIG. 4 is modified so that the support of the lens systems positions them to produce sawn planar faces at predetermined positions from a geometric axis [[95B ]] 95A that is offset from the optical axis 67. In this specific embodiment, the boundary of the resulting final lens system 22B includes the optical axis 67. Such an approach would be useful for producing lens systems characterized by having an eccentric pupil.

Similarly FIG. 7C depicts a final lens system 22C with a geometric axis [[95C ]] 95B offset from the optical axis 67. In this embodiment the optical axis 67 lies outside the boundaries of the final lens system 22C. Such an approach would be useful for producing lens systems with unobstructive apertures "eccentric pupil" systems) such as a confocal reflective microscope or a Schwarzchild arrangement microscopic or telescopic system.